

Revised Development Approval for the Ceres Project

The South Australian Government has approved the variation to the Development Approval for the Ceres Project, a \$1.6 billion wind energy development on the Yorke Peninsula.

The revised Development Approval allows for the latest wind turbine technology to be used on the site, with an increased maximum tip height of up to 220 metres, and an increased rotor diameter of up to 160 metres. The total number of turbines has been reduced from 187 to a maximum of 170 (based on 3.7 MW turbines). The wind farm output is capped at around 630 megawatts, and it is expected that higher capacity, more efficient turbines will be installed, resulting in fewer turbines.

The Ceres Project will produce power when it is needed most – reducing the use of more expensive forms of generation which will put downward pressure on electricity prices. The high voltage undersea cable, coupled with a synchronous condenser and flywheel will also contribute to increased network security and reliability.

Input from the local community has helped shape the Project. For example:

- employment and business opportunities will be actively promoted on the Yorke Peninsula;
- aerial spraying activities will be supported by stopping turbines as needed;
- \$150,000 a year will be allocated to a community fund and \$50,000 a year to a community fire-fighting fund for the 25-year life of the wind farm;
- there will be over 135 kilometres of underground cables to ensure no overhead powerlines;
- there will be setbacks of at least 2 km from coastal settlements and of 1.3 km from neighbouring households, which exceeds Government requirements.

Direct local benefits have been estimated at \$8 million per annum for the 25-year life of the wind farm.

As per the original approval, the revised Development Approval includes a number of conditions that must be met that relate to the construction and operation of the wind farm and associated infrastructure such as transformers, underground transmission lines and cabling.